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117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7289

[Report No. 117-]

To provide for the National Academies to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2022

Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself and Mr. MEIJER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY --, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 30, 2022]

A BILL

To provide for the National Academies to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of PFAS, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Federal PFAS Research*
5 *Evaluation Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

8 *(1) Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances*
9 *(PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that*
10 *have been used in a wide range of products since the*
11 *1940s including firefighting foam, carpeting, pack-*
12 *aging, and cookware. There are more than 5,000 types*
13 *of registered PFAS compounds. This chemical class is*
14 *not currently regulated at the Federal level.*

15 *(2) PFAS have been detected in air, water, soil,*
16 *food, biosolids, and more. They can accumulate and*
17 *remain in the body for a long time, and potentially*
18 *lead to serious health effects including cancer, low in-*
19 *fant birthweight, liver and kidney issues, reproductive*
20 *and developmental problems, and more.*

21 *(3) There remains much unknown about PFAS*
22 *toxicity, human and environmental health effects, ex-*
23 *posure pathways, as well as effective removal, treat-*
24 *ment, and destruction methods, and safe alternatives*
25 *to PFAS.*

1 (4) *Federal research efforts have been fragmented*
2 *at various agencies and struggled to effectively ad-*
3 *dress the full scope of challenges presented by PFAS.*

4 (5) *Regulatory action and cleanup depend on*
5 *scientific analysis of toxicity data, decision making*
6 *on how best to deal with PFAS, and understanding*
7 *the significance of the many exposure pathways that*
8 *exist. A consensus study by the National Academies of*
9 *Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine would help in-*
10 *form decisions by Federal and State Governments, in-*
11 *dustry, and other stakeholders on how to best address*
12 *PFAS.*

13 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REPORTS.**

14 (a) *RESEARCH ASSESSMENTS OF PFAS.—*

15 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after*
16 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator*
17 *of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consulta-*
18 *tion with the Director of the National Science Foun-*
19 *dation, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the*
20 *National Institutes of Health, and other Federal agen-*
21 *cies with expertise relevant to understanding PFAS*
22 *exposure, behavior, and toxicity, shall enter into an*
23 *agreement with the National Academies to conduct a*
24 *study and submit a report in accordance with this*
25 *subsection to further address research and knowledge*

1 *gaps identified by the Federal Government Human*
2 *Health PFAS Research Workshop held on October 26*
3 *and 27, 2020, and identify research and development*
4 *needed to identify, categorize, evaluate, and address*
5 *individual or total PFAS.*

6 (2) *STUDY AND REPORT ON HUMAN EXPOSURE*
7 *ESTIMATION.—*

8 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The study required to be*
9 *conducted under paragraph (1) shall, at a min-*
10 *imum—*

11 (i) *consider life-cycle information on*
12 *the manufacture, use, and disposal of*
13 *PFAS-containing products to identify po-*
14 *tential human exposure sources, including*
15 *occupational exposures, and potential expo-*
16 *sure pathways for the public;*

17 (ii) *evaluate the fate and transport of*
18 *PFAS and their breakdown products;*

19 (iii) *if feasible, estimate human expo-*
20 *sure to individual or total PFAS to deter-*
21 *mine relative source contributions for var-*
22 *ious exposure pathways (such as air, water,*
23 *soil, or food);*

24 (iv) *determine the range of solubility,*
25 *stability, and volatility of PFAS most likely*

1 to be found in the environment and the re-
2 sulting prevalence in animals and humans;

3 (v) give consideration as to whether
4 chemical category-based approaches would
5 be appropriate for evaluating PFAS tox-
6 icity and exposure;

7 (vi) identify research needed to ad-
8 vance exposure estimation to individual or
9 total PFAS; and

10 (vii) identify research needed to ad-
11 vance toxicity and hazard assessment of in-
12 dividual or total PFAS.

13 (B) *REPORT.*—Not later than 540 days
14 after the date on which the agreement described
15 in paragraph (1) is finalized, the National Acad-
16 emies shall submit to Congress a report con-
17 taining the findings and recommendations of the
18 study described in subparagraph (A) and shall
19 make such report available on a publicly acces-
20 sible website.

21 (b) *RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND*
22 *TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PFAS CONTAMINATION IN*
23 *THE ENVIRONMENT.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator

1 *of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Di-*
2 *rector of the National Science Foundation, in con-*
3 *sultation with the Secretary of Defense and other Fed-*
4 *eral agencies with expertise relevant to the develop-*
5 *ment of PFAS alternatives and the management and*
6 *treatment of PFAS, shall jointly enter into an agree-*
7 *ment with the National Academies to conduct a study*
8 *and submit a report in accordance with this sub-*
9 *section to better understand the research and develop-*
10 *ment needed to advance the understanding of the ex-*
11 *tent and implications of human and environmental*
12 *contamination by PFAS, how to manage and treat*
13 *such contamination, and the development of safe al-*
14 *ternatives.*

15 (2) *SCOPE OF STUDY.—The study described in*
16 *paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the fol-*
17 *lowing:*

18 (A) *An assessment of the best available*
19 *strategies for PFAS treatment, site remediation,*
20 *and safe disposal, including demonstration or*
21 *pilot projects related to destruction methods and*
22 *alternative materials or tools for firefighters.*

23 (B) *A description of the research gaps relat-*
24 *ing to such issues, including consideration of*

1 *emerging or future PFAS and potential classi-*
2 *fication methods.*

3 *(C) Recommendations on how the Federal*
4 *Government can best address the research needs*
5 *identified pursuant to subparagraph (B) through*
6 *increased collaboration or coordination of exist-*
7 *ing and new programs.*

8 *(D) Recommendations on how research can*
9 *best incorporate considerations of socioeconomic*
10 *issues into the development of research proposals*
11 *and the conduct of research.*

12 *(3) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the*
13 *date on which the agreement described in paragraph*
14 *(1) is finalized, the National Academies shall submit*
15 *to Congress a report containing the findings and rec-*
16 *ommendations of the study described in paragraph*
17 *(2) and shall make such report available on a pub-*
18 *licly accessible website.*

19 *(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
20 *authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to the Adminis-*
21 *trator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out*
22 *this section.*

23 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

24 *Not later than 180 days after submission to Congress*
25 *of latest of the National Academies reports under section*

1 3, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Pol-
2 icy, in coordination with all relevant Federal agencies, shall
3 submit to Congress an implementation plan for increased
4 collaboration and coordination of Federal PFAS research,
5 development, and demonstration activities. In preparing
6 such an implementation plan, the Director shall take into
7 consideration the recommendations included in the reports
8 in section 3.

9 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

10 *In this Act:*

11 (1) *NATIONAL ACADEMIES.*—The term “National
12 Academies” means the National Academies of
13 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

14 (2) *PFAS.*—The term “PFAS” means per- and
15 polyfluoroalkyl substances, including mixtures of such
16 substances.